Investigation in the connection was undertaken in 1103. It was proposed to construct a diversion weir at a place near Chiklai, above Echipara and in the first stage of its development to run the waters by a channel into the Kurumali river for kole irrigation purposes. The scheme contemplated in the second stage was to construct further distributaries to command the Virippu and Mundakan ayacuts.

A survey was undertaken, the weir site was located and an accurate theodolite survey was completed from weir to the saddle at Edumban-Kavalai, a distance of 6 miles. From this portion to the Kurumali river is easy country and the Survey for the first stage is therefore almost completed.

Survey of the Sandalwood trees in the Forests.

170. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.— Wil the Government be pleased to state :—

whether the Government has made any attempt to make a survey of the Sandalwood trees in the Cochin Forests and the economic possibilities of the same ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No, because there are no Sandalwood trees of natural growth in the Cochin Forests except a couple of them on the submit of the Kolakkattumudi peak in the Nemmara sub-range.

The Thalikuzhi Coupe contract.

171. Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.— Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) to whom is the Thalikuzhi coupe, Vaniampara range, Trichur Taluk, given on contract for felling trees ;

(2) when was it given ;

(3) what was the quantity estimated for extraction ;

(4) what is the area of the coupe ;

(5) whether there was any time-limit fixed for felling ;

(6) how many extensions were given and on what grounds;

(7) what are the species of timber to be felled under the contract ;

(8) the market rate for each species ;

(9) whether the coupe was given on tender or by private negotiations ;

(10) if it was given by tender, whether there was any higher bidding ;

(11) if so, what is the difference between the highest bidding and the contract rate ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) Mr. P. S. Krishna Ayyar.

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(2) Makaram 1102.
(3) 1,500 candies (approximate).
(4) Only boundaries were fixed.
(5) Yes. Till Makaram 1103.
(6) Three extensions till Edavam 1105. Difficulty for exraction.
(7) Teak, rosewood and junglewood.
(8) The question is not clear, since it does not indicate whether the market rate under reference is the one prevalent at the time the contract was entered into or the one obtaining at present.
(9) By tender.
(10) No.
(11) No reply is required in view of reply to item (10).

Compelling guards to take privilege leave.

172. Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(i) has the Conservator of Forests issued an order recently to the Rangers to ask the guards working under them to take privilege leave to which they are eligible so that new or acting hands may be provided ;

(ii) how many such guards have taken leave and for how many months each guard ;

(iii) how many acting hands have been appointed in their place ;

(iv) whether the Government is not a loser by such arrangement ;

(v) if so, who is responsible and from whom the loss can be recovered ;

(vi) whether there is any other kind of leave available to those who may require urgent leave after having joined duty and their privilege leave having expired ;

(vii) if there be any, will the Conservator grant full pay to them ;

(viii) is there any order or rule authorising the Conservator to compel subordinates to take privilege leave, if so, under what ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) Yes. The Conservator issued such an order because some guards were found sickly and unable to discharge their duties satisfactorily.

(ii) Four. 3 for one month and 1 for two months.

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